

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended): An apparatus for hardening a coating of an object, said coating including a material that hardens under electromagnetic radiation, the apparatus comprising:

at least one radiator producing electromagnetic radiation; and,

a conveying system that moves the object to the proximity of the radiator and moves it away from said radiator again;

wherein

the conveying system further comprising: a lifting truck with a running gear, said lifting truck having a lifting platform for receiving the object, the height of which lifting platform relative to the running gear can be adjusted by means of a motor, and in that the at least one radiator is arranged in such a manner that the lifting truck and the object located thereon can be guided through under the at least one UV radiator wherein the apparatus comprises a control system which is configured to control the height of the lifting platform in such a way that, during a conveying movement of the object past the at least one radiator, the distance in the vertical direction between the object and the at least one radiator remains substantially constant.

2. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the lifting platform is tiltable relative to the running gear by means of a motor.

3. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein the lifting platform comprises two planes which are separated from one another by at least one length-variable ram.

4. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising a container with an opening, through which the object can be guided into the container by height adjustment of the lifting platform, and in that the interior space of the container can be subjected to electromagnetic radiation by at least one radiator.

5. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 4, wherein at least one radiator is fitted in a wall, a ceiling or a floor of the container.
6. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein at least one radiator is fitted in the opposite side walls running parallel to the translatory movement of the objects and in at least one of the two end walls running perpendicular to the translatory movement of the objects or in a ceiling or a floor of the container.
7. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 5, wherein a multiplicity of radiators are arranged on all walls and in a ceiling or a floor of the container.
8. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein a plurality of radiators are arranged on a bridge-like portal frame which has two substantially vertical legs and a substantially horizontal base.
9. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 8, wherein the arrangement of the radiators on the substantially vertical legs of the portal frame is adapted to the course of the lateral surfaces of the object.
10. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 7, wherein the arrangement of the radiators on the substantially horizontal base is adapted to the course of the upward-facing surface of the object.
11. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 4, a protective gas can be supplied to the interior space of the container.
12. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the protective gas is heavier than air.
13. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 11, wherein the protective gas is lighter than air.
14. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 12, there is an inlet for the protective gas in the immediate vicinity of the at least one radiator.

15. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, at least one radiator is assigned a movable reflector on the side facing away from the object.
16. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 4, the container is at least partly lined with a reflective layer.
17. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 16, wherein the layer is uneven.
18. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 16, the layer consists of an aluminium foil.
19. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further a booth housing which prevents uncontrolled escape of gases and electromagnetic radiation.
20. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 19, wherein a lock for the object is respectively provided at the inlet and at the outlet of the booth housing.
21. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein an inlet for protective gas is arranged within the inlet-side lock in such a way that a hollow space present in the object is flushed with a protective gas.
22. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 20, wherein a device for removing oxygen from the atmosphere situated within the booth housing is provided.
23. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the device for removing oxygen has a catalyst for catalytically binding the oxygen.
24. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 22, wherein the device for removing oxygen has a filter for absorbing oxygen.
25. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 22, the device for removing oxygen has a filter for adsorbing oxygen.
26. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further a preheating zone for removing the solvent from the material of the coating.

27. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1 further a preheating zone for partial gelling of pulverulent material.
28. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, further a post-heating zone for completing the hardening.
29. (cancel):
30. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~[[29]]~~, wherein the height of the lifting platform can be changed by the control system in such a way that, during a conveying movement of the object past the at least one radiator, the amount of electromagnetic radiation striking the material per unit area, and the intensity thereof, in each case does not fall below predeterminable threshold values required for hardening.
31. (cancel):
32. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 30, wherein the control system comprises a memory for storing three-dimensional shape data of the object.
33. (currently amended): Apparatus according to Claim 1 ~~[[29]]~~, the apparatus comprises a measuring station which is arranged upstream of the at least one radiator in the conveying direction and by which three-dimensional shape data of the object can be acquired.
34. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the measuring station comprises at least one light barrier.
35. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 33, wherein the measuring station comprises a video camera and a device for digital image recognition.
36. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 33, the measuring station comprises at least one optical scanner, by which the object can be scanned at least in one direction.
37. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 36, wherein the optical scanner comprises an infrared light source.

38. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, the conveying system comprises a lifting truck and a traveling path for the lifting truck, along which path the at least one radiator is arranged, and in that a receiving station for receiving the object on the lifting platform and a delivery station for delivering the object spatially coincide.

39. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, the conveying system comprises at least two lifting trucks and in that, between a receiving station for receiving the object on the lifting platform and a delivery station for delivering the object, two traveling paths for the lifting trucks extend in such a way that the lifting trucks can circulate in a closed circuit between the receiving station and the delivery station.

40. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is UV light.

41. (previously presented): Apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the electromagnetic radiation is IR radiation.